

COWLEY AREA COMMITTEE

Wednesday 3rd March 2010

COUNCILLORS PRESENT FOR THE WHOLE OF THE MEETING: The Chair (Councillor Bryan Keen), the Vice-Chair (Councillor Bob Timbs), Councillors Mohammed Niaz Abbasi, Shah Jahan Khan, Sajjad Malik and Sabir Hussain Mirza.

COUNTY COUNCILLORS PRESENT FOR THE WHOLE OF THE MEETING: County Councillors Sajjad Malik, John Sanders and Val Smith.

OFFICERS PRESENT FOR THE WHOLE THE MEETING: Angela Cristofoli (Communities and Neighbourhoods Manager), and Mathew Metcalfe (Law and Governance).

OFFICERS PRESENT FOR PART OF THE MEETING: Shaun Hatton (Streetscene) and Caroline Chanides (Parks).

81. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from County Councillors Richard Stevens and Sarah Hutchinson.

82. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interests were made.

83. NOTIFICATION OF URGENT BUSINESS

None notified.

84. OPEN SESSION

(a) General Open Session

(1) Proposed closure of Temple Cowley Pools

Nigel Gibson a local resident from Dean Road wished to raise awareness of the issue of the proposed closure of Temple Cowley Pools, which the City Executive Board had agreed to formally consult on. He said that local residents and users were raising a petition against the closure and said that there was concern at the lack of consultation especially with the Temple Cowley Pool Users Group. He further said that in excess of 160,000 people used the pool and that people would not travel to a new competition pool in blackbird Leys, further more the environmental costs were noting being looked at and the whole focus of the area would shift should the pool close.

In response, Councillor Timbs (Board Member) said that the City Executive Board did listen to comments and were in the process of collecting comments following the approval of the City Executive Board to undertake a survey and full consultation on the proposals. He added that talk of 40 houses being built on the site was part of a forward plan which looked at possibilities for the site should the pool close. It was not definite that houses would be built on the site.

In response to further comments concerning the gym equipment at the Temple Cowley Pools, Councillor Timbs said that no equipment would be transferred to the new Barton Pool Gym as this would have new equipment. He added that gym equipment had a life span of roughly 3 years and once the Barton Pool gym was operational, the equipment at Temple Cowley Pools would be older than 3 years.

Councillor Malik said that he shared the concerns of the local residents and users, however it was important that the feasibility study was carried out.

Councillor Abbasi was also concerned about the issue and said that he would do his best to keep the facility in the area. Councillor Mirza also added that this was the only facility of its type in East Oxford and he would strongly oppose the closure.

The Committee agreed to thank Nigel Gibson for his comments.

85. THAMES VALLEY POLICE 3RD QUARTER 2009/10 REPORT

The Neighbourhood Policing Officer submitted a report (previously circulated, now appended) which provided an overview from Thames Valley Police on local crime statistics, neighbourhood policing activities and other Police activity from the 3rd quarter of 2009/10.

Inspector Graham Sutherland attended the meeting and presented the report. He highlighted each of the Cowley Neighbourhood Action Groups (NAG) three priority areas and gave updates in each of them.

The following issues/comments were made/raised by Councillors:

- (i) Traffic management issues on the Cowley Road near the Central Mosque, especially on a Friday between 1.40pm and 2.00pm;
- (ii) Parking issues in Temple Road around St. Christopher's School;
- (iii) Drinks Delivery Service operating from the Big Yellow Warehouse – Could this be part of a “test purchase” operation?
- (iv) Dog fouling;
- (v) Transport Way, drivers parking on double yellow lines, blocking the views of other motorists driving along that road.

In response to the issues/comments, Graham Sutherland said that he would forward the traffic management issues to Inspector Linsdall who was responsible for this. With regard to parking in Temple Road he would forward this to the Police Community Support Officers (PCSO's) in the area. With regard to the Drink Delivery Service, he said that this was an important issue and that any complaints needed to be forwarded to the Police and that along with other establishments it could be part of a test purchase operation and with regard to dog fouling, in order for a ticket to be issued, the Police Officer had to witness the dog fouling.

Graham Sutherland then informed the Committee that this would be his last visit to the Cowley Area Committee as he was retiring shortly. He thanked the Committee and Officers for all their help and wished it and the area well for the future. He introduced Karen Hanks would be taking over from hi.

The Committee agreed:

- (a) To thank Inspector Sutherland for his update and to thank him for all his work for the Cowley Area Committee area and to wish him a very happy retirement;
- (b) To note the report.

86. 138 OXFORD ROAD, COWLEY, OXFORD – 09/02734/FUL

The Head of City Development submitted a report (previously circulated, now appended) which detailed an application for the erection of two-storey side3 extension to provide new retail unit on ground floor and self-contained 1xbed flat on first floor. Erection of two storey rear extension to provide extension to existing retail unit on ground floor and enlarged accommodation for existing 3 bed flat on first floor. Provision of off street parking, bin and cycle storage and enclosures.

The Committee noted that the applicant had withdrawn the application prior to the meeting and therefore was not considered at the meeting.

87. PLANNING APPEALS RECEIVED AND DECIDED DURING JANUARY 2010

The Head of City Development submitted notes and tables (previously circulated, now appended), which detailed the planning appeals received and decided during January 2010.

The Committee agreed to note the information.

88. CRESCENT ROAD – KICK-ABOUT AREA – PROPOSED DISPOSAL

The Interim Head of Corporate Assets and the Head of Law and Governance submitted a report (previously circulated, now appended) which informed the Committee of the proposed disposal of the Crescent Road Kick-about area on terms to be agreed.

The Committee agreed to note the report.

89. BARRACKS LANE GARDEN PROJECT

The Head of Community Housing and Community Development submitted a report (previously circulated, now appended), which informed the Committee of an application for funding from the Barracks Lane Garden Project.

The Committee agreed not to support the grant application from the Barracks Lane Garden Project.

90. MINUTES

The Committee agreed the minutes (previously circulated) of the meeting held on 3rd February 2010.

91. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

- (a) Minute 73(a)(2) – Open Session – General Open Session – Rymers Lane – unauthorised parking of cars

The Committee was informed that the bollards to stop unauthorised parking on grassed areas would be installed before the end of March 2010.

The Committee agreed to note the position.

The meeting started at 7.00 pm and finished at 8.10 pm

3 members of the public were present at the start of the meeting with 1 present at the end.